

FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Posting of SPod Monitoring Data to EPA's LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana Website

DATE: April 29, 2020

CONTACTS: Justin Lannen, ORC
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PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Concurrence on format and content of EPA's SPod Monitoring Data near the Denka Facility.

Background: EPA has implemented a new monitoring program around the Denka facility that, together with additional investigation, may lead to the identification of the root causes of elevated chloroprene emissions at the facility and assist in identifying potential opportunities to further reduce short- and long-term ambient air concentrations of chloroprene. SPods are monitoring instruments that contains a meteorological station to continuously measure wind speeds and directions, and a photoionization detector (PID) to continuously measure total ambient air concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOC). Chloroprene is a VOC. The SPods will have sampling canisters to collect air samples whenever the PID detects a total concentration of VOCs above a specified "trigger" level. To keep the public informed, ambient air concentrations of chloroprene from air samples collected through the SPod Air Monitoring Program will be posted on EPA's LaPlace website.

Status of SPod Monitoring: During the week of March 9, 2020, EPA installed seven monitoring instruments, called "SPods," in close proximity to four of EPA's six Community Air Monitoring Program sites. EPA is seeking access agreements from the landowner, DuPont, for the two remaining monitoring sites at Acorn and Hwy 44 and the Levee. One of the seven SPods is owned by ORD and is not capable of triggering canister samples. ORD's SPod is only being used as a collocated SPod to ensure data quality. Since access to two monitoring sites is pending, EPA has temporarily collocated SPods at the Fifth Ward Elementary School and Ochsner Hospital.

During the first 2 days of deployment, 6 background canister samples were manually triggered and analyzed. The SPod triggers were then set low, with an initial trigger level around 100 ppb and were gradually increased to around 500 ppb. For that SPod trigger range (100 ppb – 500 ppb), as of March 28, 2020, 11 canisters have been analyzed. From March 10 to March 28, the highest chloroprene concentration has been $1.009 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, with an average chloroprene concentration for all samples of $0.230 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. From March 29 to April 27, the trigger levels have been increased to a trigger level of 800 ppb, resulting in 5 canisters that are pending analysis. After March 28, 2020 EPA is routinely analyzing for and reporting only chloroprene concentrations.

On April 17, 2020, Region 6 Enforcement Staff and Regional Counsel participated in a teleconference with LDEQ. After summarizing the SPod monitoring program and chloroprene results through March 16, 2020, LDEQ requests that we share a copy of the results with LDEQ by email, prior to posting results to the website. Once of the format and content of the chloroprene results summary becomes

final, our plan is to share a copy of the results with LDEQ, the Parish, and Denka prior to uploading to the website. The time it takes XA to upload the data, typically provides LDEQ, the Parish, and Denka at least a day's advance notice before the data is public, consistent with the current practice used for the Community Air Monitoring results.

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Next Steps

- Finalize the SPod Monitoring Summary sheet to post to EPA website.
- Make minor edits to the Website to be consistent with the new SPod Monitoring Summary
- Schedule briefing, if necessary, for stakeholders prior to posting SPod Monitoring Data.
- Decision about how raw PID data is shared with stakeholders.

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